

The Call of God Jeremiah 1:4-10

One night while driving home over look out went from a Sunday night service at Bethel Memorial Baptist Church, a line of thought took my 9 year old mind to a haunting question. What if God calls me to be a preacher. I remember the fear that gripped my heart. It almost took my breath and made me sick w/ fear. I don't know what I would do? Just don't think about it. I will never happen... 18 years later on an island off coast of South Georgia on a youth retreat the strangest thought invaded my mind. God is calling me to preach. No audible voice. It came as a whisper in my heart. That same fear gripped me once again. ^{little} did I know God was leading and working. Apply.

I. The Sovereign Call (vs 4-5)

A. Jeremiah was not called by his preacher, SS teach his mom or dad. It wasn't suggested by his wife ^{no}. vs 4. The word of the Lord came unto me. He was hearing ^{No one else was} Sareth.

B. The Acquaintance of God - This Sovereign God that is calling is right from the onset, assuring Jeremiah that He knows him. He knows what he is doing. I don't often tell folks that they need to come to Christ because God has a wonderful plan for their life. It may be difficult. But I do know that he has a plan. That when God formed

us as the Potter fashions a useful vessel, He has an intended purpose.

C. The Aparting of God - (yes an invented word) Before Jeremiah was born, God sanctified him, set him apart. This is Bible consecration. I use the example

often concerning the instruments in the Tabernacle. Tongs, meat hooks and different instrument used in sacrificial service are not used for back yard barbeque. Kid bones, any guitar, sacrifice. No sweet home Alabama. Your life is that way.

D. The Appointment of God - Here is what I have fashioned you for. Here is what I have set you apart to do: A Prophet to the nations. God revealed it to Jeremiah. Do you think the Lord would fashion you in the womb, especially set you apart for that task and then let you guess the rest of your life. ^{Revelation!}

II. The Servant's Complaint (Vs 6)

A. Dispel the fact that God made us for, set us apart to and revealed to us this Divine call, yet man often responds with hesitations, denial, doubt, even refusal.

B. He Complained of Inability - Right here Jeremiah is all messed up and falling over himself. Vs 6 read closely. "said I" → "can't speak" He is telling God that he is unable to do what he is presently doing right in front of Him. Well I guess you can. Maybe Jeremiah didn't mean the mechanics of speech, maybe he couldn't do it emotionally. Jeremiah was the most tender hearted of the OT prophets who wept often over God's people. Oh! How I am reminded of my own complaints to God, I can't stand in front of people.

C. He Complained of Inexperience - "Child" He is saying, I don't have the knowledge, I'm not mature enough, I'm not ready, I don't have what it takes. The weight of such a mighty call causes one to look at

Clarke - "How ready is the man to go, Whom God hath never sent! How timorous, diffident, and slow, God's chosen instrument!"

Isaiah 55:11 *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

2 Corinthians 3:5 *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;*

Philippians 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Hebrews 13:6 *So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

themselves and size them selves along side the task to which none can measure up to. These complaints can be found elsewhere in scripture. These called off God are often smitten with their ^{own} ^{poor} inability. This complaint is the proper mindset of a ^{useful vessel} ^{to those pursuing}

III. The Sovereign Command (vs 7-9)

A. God doesn't simply walk away from his far acclaimed plan. He persists and ^{persuades} ^{to those pursuing} Jeremiah 3:1 "Second time" He cannot be discouraged. What more

B. Words of Rebuke - Oft times God sends a rebuke. He counters our excuses and our spiritual navel gazing. God goes on to say I shall... I cannot... I am... Your self prescribed limitations are no match for my omnipotence! Is 55:11 God's not wasting His breath ^{on} how He cornered me from my running, Jeremiah Moses

C. Words of Reinforcement - 2 Cor 3:5 - None of us have the internal innate ability to carry out God's plan. Philippians 2:13 God give Jeremiah ^{in weakness} encouragement

1. Direction Pronounced vs 7 If I surrender to His call, where do I go, what do I do. It's not up to you it's up to Him. I'll send you. You just seek me listen for me...

2. Deliverance Promised vs 8 If you stick with the message of God it will offend some, There will be some scowls, some words, some accusations, questionings

But take heart Servant I will deliver thee! ^{Mat 10:1} ^{Heb 13:6}

3. Divine Provision - vs 9 Jeremiah may wonder what to say. God responds, I'll provide the words, You provide the availability, I'll provide the infallible. We have the word of God We too can say... Smooth the Lord

IV. The Servants Commission vs 10

A. Jeremiah has gone from looking at himself to looking at the Lord to now looking upon the field, the place of God's sending.

B. Mission Locations - vs 10a Jeremiah's ^{Mission} Field went well beyond the bounds of the people of Israel but prophesied concerning the Egyptians, Babylonians, Moabites and other nations. Would to God we would get a vision for touching the nations of the world. That our lives would be poured out seeking every avenue for making Christ known. We are all in a Kingdom battle 2 Cor 10:4-5. We the God calls you to wage this battle on foreign lands or in a prayer closet, or through the blessing ^{given} God has.

C. Ministry Labor - vs 10b God begins to display before Jeremiah the various aspects in which he will be used. The Book of Jeremiah recounts Him doing these various things. Jeremiah is not one that takes glee in the verbal chastisement of a people. He suffers in it and because of it. Some aspects of Gospel ministry are not pleasing... But before a land is to bring a harvest it must be cleared, broken & plowed. Oh how easily weeds grow and how laborious flowers are. How easily ^{mercy builds up} idols are erected... But just as judgments ^{mercy builds up} are declared.

V. Clos. Whether pastor, evangelist, preacher, SS teacher, we are all called to be available vessels in our masters hands. Maybe God is calling... maybe rebuking... Surrender. He will empower, enable, he will appoint & place.

John 4:35 ...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes,
and look on the fields; for they are white already to
harvest.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (For the weapons of our warfare
are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling
down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and
every high thing that exalteth itself against the
knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every
thought to the obedience of Christ;